



# The Chatterbox



Spring 2011

## Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman  
Steven Holt  
Steven Dillinger

## Hamilton County Council

Brad Beaver	Judy Levine
Jim Belden	Rick McKinney
Meredith Carter	Steve Schwartz
Paul Ayres	

## Hamilton County Park Board

Andrew Prather	Mark McCauley
Jan DeJarnatt	Susan Peterson
Philip Shelby	Dr. Judith Campbell
Larry Roudebush	Stephen Andrews

## Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department shall exist to serve the leisure and recreational needs of the residents and tourists of the county. We will strive to be the leader in providing well-maintained, high-quality passive parks and facilities, excellent programs and services, and the preservation of greenspace to enhance the quality of life in the county.

## Park Board Meetings

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month, unless a holiday. They are held at the Cool Creek Nature Center auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033 at 7p.m. The meetings are open to the public.

## Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events or shelter reservations. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administration office.

*The Chatterbox* is distributed throughout the year. If you would like to be on our mailing list or have an address change, please call the Administration Office at 317-770-4400.

On the cover: Tulip/Poplar tree bud  
Photograph by: Robert Vorsilak

## Administrative Office • 317-770-4400

Director, Allen Patterson  
[allen.patterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:allen.patterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Deputy Director, Christopher Stice  
[chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Resource Development Specialist, Don Nicholls  
[don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Office Manager, Alesa Cox  
[alesa.cox@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:alesa.cox@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Admin Technical Coordinator, Tawny Amburgey  
[tawny.amburgey@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:tawny.amburgey@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

GIS and Graphics Specialist, Robert Vorsilak  
[rob.vorsilak@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:rob.vorsilak@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Cool Creek Nature Center • 317-774-2500

Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education,  
Amanda Smith  
[amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Naturalist, Dan Popiela  
[dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Taylor Center of Natural History • 317-984-5556

Regional Park Manager, Bruce Oldham  
[bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## White River Campground • 317-984-2705

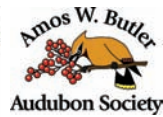
Campground Manager, Bruce Oldham  
[bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Coxhall Gardens • 317-817-0311

Park Manager, Gary Knowlton  
[gary.knowlton@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:gary.knowlton@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Maintenance • 317-774-2505

Proud Member of:



For info on other parks visit:  
[www.hampa.org](http://www.hampa.org)      [www.inpra.org](http://www.inpra.org)



Find us on  
Facebook and Twitter!



## Camp ACA Accreditation



For over fifteen years Cool Creek Park has been offering quality camps each summer to the youth of Hamilton County. We are thrilled to announce that we have now achieved accreditation by the American Camp Association (ACA). For over 50 years the ACA, a community of camp professionals that work together in building the highest quality camp experience for our youth, has been accrediting camps that work to preserve, promote and improve the camp experience. The ACA believes that the critical skills children learn at camp ensure a brighter future for everyone.

The accreditation program educates camp facilitators in key aspects of camp operations such as program quality, health and safety, and staffing. They establish guidelines for policies, procedures, and practices. We are proud to demonstrate our camp quality and are proud to show our accreditation. We also look forward to another exciting summer at Cool Creek Park!

Welcome to the spring 2011 edition of the *Chatterbox*.

I always look forward to this edition because the tone of the *Chatterbox* is much like that of the season; it is when our department and its activities start to bloom. We start mentioning camps and other outdoor programs, like wildflower and bird hikes, and maple syrup demonstrations. There is no “down time” in the parks world as many perceive there might be. It is about this time of year though that our work load changes from planning and preparing, to hitting the ground running. If you are one of our many families that do, or would like to take advantage of our Cool Creek Camp opportunities, please take a few minutes to read the information regarding the changes in camp registration. We have always tried very hard to maintain the personal customer service that you have grown to expect. In keeping up with technology, we have added a component creating an option for online camp registration. Please be patient with this process as it is new and will have a few bugs to work out; remember our existing process took some time to become the well-oiled machine that it is today.



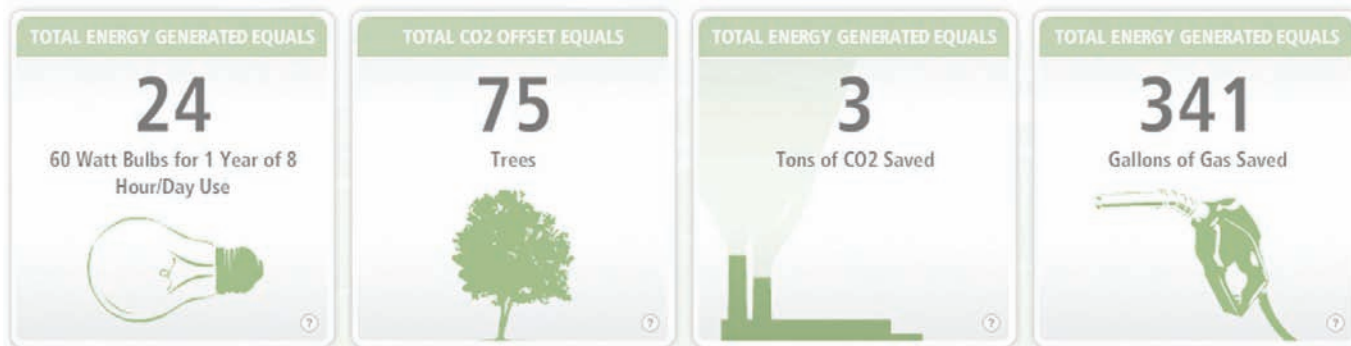
On a final note I would like to congratulate staff members Chris Stice and his wife Heather; and Amanda Smith and her husband Shannon on the births of their new children. Two beautiful little girls, Clover Stice and Phoebe Smith joined our family in December.

*Al Patterson*  
Director

## Solar Panels at the Cool Creek Nature Center

View the energy generated by our solar panels on the roof of the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Visit [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com) and click on the *Cool Creek Nature Center Solar Panels* link!



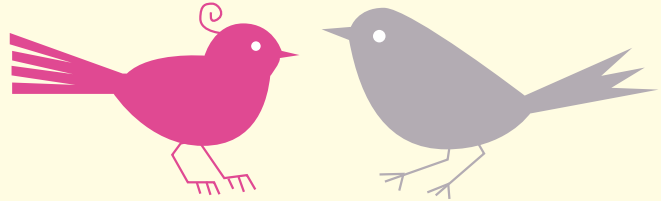
Snapshot taken February 1, 2011. Data generated since September 2, 2010



## SPRING EXHIBIT: Spring on a Wing ★

Put a “spring” in your step as you “migrate” to the Cool Creek Nature Center to learn more about the birds that are all around us. Information about specific birds, like woodpeckers, will be featured, as well as general bird-related facts about conservation, nesting, and habitats. Free daily crafts, our popular treasure chest, and scavenger hunts will also be available to all those that “flock” to this interactive exhibit. While you’re here, be sure to check out our Wildlife Viewing Area or a take hike to get a look at wild birds along the trails of Cool Creek Park. Please call the Nature Center at 317-774-2500 with additional questions.

**Dates:** March 21-June 5  
Nature Center Closed on: April 22, 24; May 3, 30  
**Times:** Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free



## park programs



### Pajama-Rama ★

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up an old blanket, and join us at the Cool Creek Nature Center for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with their toddlers and preschoolers will love the music educator from Moriah Music who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

**Dates:** March 4, April 1, and May 6  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for families with children ages 1-7  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center  
**Pre-registration:** Yes, call 317-774-2500 or email at [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)



### Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park ★

The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history that stretches thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. Over six miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-984-5556 or 317-714-7144.

**Hours:** Mon-Sat 10:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m.  
Sun 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.  
Closed April 22, 24; May 3, 30

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

The park staff will occasionally take pictures of participants at our parks, programs, and special events. Photos may be used in future publications or online for marketing purposes. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the photographer.

## Animals of Spring ★

Silly Safaris will be visiting the Cool Creek Nature Center to take us on an educational and entertaining trip. We will learn about some of the interesting spring animals in our area and around the world. Silly Safaris will share some of their amazing adaptations and silly characteristics!

**Date:** Monday, April 4  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

## Animal Adaptations ★

Discover how remarkable animals really are with Mark Booth, Director of Take Flight Wildlife Education! Mark will have several types of birds of prey and a few other animals that demonstrate the awesome survival abilities these creatures possess!

**Date:** Tuesday, April 5  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

## Bones Talk! ★

Come explore our growing collection of animal bones and learn what bones can tell us. Discover how archaeologists study bones to find clues about how ancient people lived. In this hands-on program, you will handle and identify specimens while learning where to find out more information about bones!

**Date:** Tuesday, April 5  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History

## Creepy Critters ★

Snakehead-Ed will be bringing lots of snakes to show the audience. This "hands-on" experience will be one you won't want to miss. He will also dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 6  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

## History's Mysteries ★

Have you ever wanted to be a detective? Historians and Archaeologists solve mysteries like detectives. Come join us and help solve a mystery!

**Date:** Wednesday, April 6  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History

## Alligator Aaron and Indiana Wild ★

Alligator Aaron, with Indiana Wild, will be bringing several interesting animals to share! Alligator Aaron's energetic and informative programs are always a hit!

**Date:** Thursday, April 7  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

## String Theory ★

No, it isn't physics, or is it? One of the most important survival skills is to be able to make string or cordage. Before industrialization, people had to make their own from natural fibers. This basic knowledge was used in ancient times and even by some modern but remote communities for such things as bags, skirts, bowstrings, nets, snares, baskets, you name it. Want to know how? Come check out some of the natural fibers growing nearby and learn how to make your own cordage.

**Date:** Thursday, April 7  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for ages 8 to adult  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History



Look for the ★ for  
programs scheduled  
over Spring Break!

## Exotic Feline Rescue Center Program ★

We are happy to welcome Jean Herrberg, staff member and licensed teacher with the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, as she presents an interactive and educational program about the Center and the magnificent creatures in their care. The mission of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center is to provide permanent homes for exotic felines that have been abused or abandoned and educate the public about these beautiful cats.

**Date:** Friday, April 8  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Best for school aged children  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

## Super Soils for Bear Cub Scouts ★

Attention Bear Cub Scouts, this is a great opportunity to earn the Water and Soil Conservation elective and Geology Belt Loop! We'll tackle fun, hands-on soil experiments and make a rock collection to take home.

**Date:** Saturday, April 9  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Open to all Cub Scouts accompanied by parents or leaders  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History  
**Pre-registration:** Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email Leslie Nocton  
leslie.nocton@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

## Spring Tea Party

We cordially invite you for a Spring Tea Party. Please feel free to dress in your fanciest attire, but do be prepared for a small hike to enjoy some of the beautiful spring wildflowers. Enjoy some tea, cookies, lovely conversations, and a small craft inspired by spring.

**Date:** Saturday, April 16  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 4-10 years old  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History  
**Pre-registration:** Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email  
taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

## Bird Banding Demonstration

Join Dr. Ron Weiss, Executive Director of the Chipper Woods Bird Observatory, for a fascinating journey into the world of wild birds. Learn techniques that field scientists use to safely capture, handle, and release wild birds, as well as how to examine them. These techniques are employed by scientists around the world to generate useful data for conservation. All birds are safely captured, banded, and released unharmed.

**Date:** Saturday, May 7  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** All  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

## Make your own Bandolier Bag

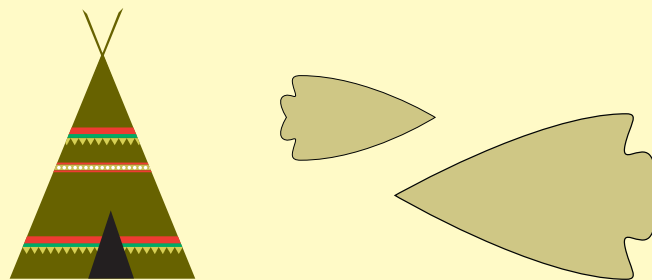
The Taylor Center of Natural History would like to invite you to try to create a bag inspired by Bandolier bags. Bandolier bags are a specific type of bag made by many Woodland Indians. Beautifully decorated, Bandolier bags were typically worn by men and created by women; however today many men make Bandolier bags as well.

**Date:** Saturday, May 14  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** 6 and up  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History  
**Pre-registration:** Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email  
taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

## Frances Slocum Child of Two Americas

When Frances Slocum was taken captive by a Delaware raiding party in Pennsylvania in 1778, Indiana was still a wilderness. By the time Maconaquah, as she was then known, died, Indiana was well settled and had been a state for 3 decades. Spanning nearly the entire early contact period in Indiana, her remarkable life story is one you won't forget. In addition to viewing the movie Child of Two Americas, we will be joined by Debbie Bowsher, Miami County Tourism Director. Debbie will take us on a virtual historic tour of the county, highlighting sites related to Maconaquah, so you will be ready to explore on your own!

**Date:** Tuesday, May 17  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Ages:** Adults  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History



## Collection Identification

Do you have some arrowheads, stone tools, or other Native American artifacts about which you would like to know more? Archaeologist Jim Mohow will help artifact collectors identify personal collection pieces. When possible, Mr. Mohow will give you the dates and stories associated with these fascinating relics of the past and the people who used them.

**Date:** Saturday, May 21  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History



## It's Tulip Time!

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation wants to invite you to Coxhall Gardens this spring to view over 17,000 tulip bulbs that were planted last fall. The tulip, for all its spectacular beauty, is one of the easiest flowers to grow successfully in the garden. Plant a bulb in the fall and even a novice gardener can expect to see a beautiful flower come spring.

We have planted tulips in a variety of colors for you to view. Please come out and enjoy the tulip in all its splendor.

**Dates:** Best from late March through early June

**Location:** Coxhall Gardens



## Spring Wildflower Hike

Walk the trails with a Naturalist in search of beautiful spring wildflowers. You won't want to miss the opportunity to see these flowers as they make their brief, but enchanting appearance in our forests this spring. A Naturalist will discuss a variety of topics during the hike including medicinal and edible attributes of the flowers as well as folklore associated with them. Please meet in the Nature Center.

**Dates:** Saturday, April 23

Saturday, May 21

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All

**Location:** Cool Creek Park

## Star and Satellite Gazing Tours ★

Join Dr. Ronald Weiss, adjunct professor of Astronomy and Earth Science for Vincennes University, for a fascinating evening of star and satellite gazing. Amateur astronomer Dan Malone of the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society will be assisting Dr. Weiss as the group learns about and attempts to view the stars, planets, constellations, satellites, and deep sky objects that are visible each month. In the event that the sky is cloudy, an indoor astronomy program is planned. Please see below for program topic information. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars, but we ask that pets be left at home. This program will meet near the Taylor Center of Natural History.

**Dates:** The Expanding Universe:

Saturday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Black Hole Program:

Saturday, April 2 at 8:30 p.m.

Solar Cycle Impacts on Global Climates:

Saturday, May 7, at 9:00 p.m.

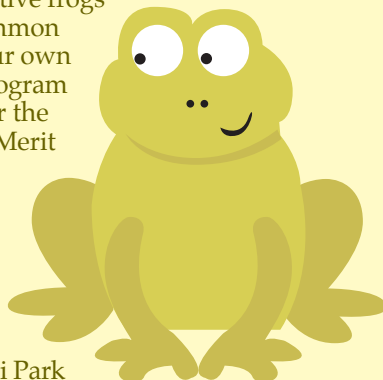
**Ages:** Best for school aged children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History

## Frog Chorus Hike ★

The nightly chorus of our froggy friends is at full volume in late spring. Join us on a short hike to discover the fun and unique sounds of our native frogs and toads. We'll identify common Indiana species and create our own amphibian orchestra! This program meets some requirements for the Scout Reptile & Amphibian Merit Badge. Dress for an evening outdoors.



**Date:** Saturday, April 2

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All

**Location:** Strawtown Koteewi Park

**Pre-registration:** Yes, by calling 317-984-5556

or e-mail

taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

## outdoor programs



## Spring Softball Information

The Spring softball league will begin in April. Please view our website for upcoming info.

Questions? Call 317-770-4409



## Arbor Day Tree Hike

Celebrate Arbor Day as the trees' new leaves unfurl and their flowers bloom. Our Naturalist staff is eager to share information about these magnificent plants and their annual rebirth each spring. This hike will begin just inside the entrance of the historic Potter's Bridge.

**Date:** Saturday, April 30

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Ages:** All


**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Potter's Bridge Park

## Be a Parks Partner!



Volunteer opportunities include general park up-keep, assisting with special events, help with gardening, caring for the Nature Center's wildlife friends, greenhouse work, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, and education.

You can also check out the programs and events in this issue! Look for the  ! All programs with this symbol are looking for volunteers!

To volunteer, please contact Sue Wilson at 317-774-2509 or visit [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com)

### Distinguished Trees of Hamilton County

We would like to locate and recognize large trees within Hamilton County. HCPR would like to know if you or someone you know has a large tree! We are also looking for trees that have an important historical value.

Nominate your special tree by filling out an application. Each application will require measurement of the tree and other basic information. Copies of the application and measuring instructions may be downloaded at [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

Applications can also be mailed to you upon request. Once the application is received, you will be contacted by a Naturalist for further details.

There is a specific list of the types of trees that can be nominated. Visit our website for more information or call 317-774-2502.

### Rookery PreServe Program

Join a Naturalist on site at our newest Hamilton County Park! This park hosts the largest Great Blue Heron rookery in Hamilton County. We will meet and stay at the observation deck and discuss details about the park. We will spend the majority of the time watching and talking about the Great Blue Herons who should be busily tending their nests. You are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment if you'd like. There may be extra binoculars provided for sharing.

**Date:** Saturday, May 7

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Rookery Preserve

**Pre-registration:** Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

### Prairie Flower Stroll

Join the park's Naturalist for a short, easy walk to identify the most common and most beautiful prairie wildflowers of Strawtown Koteewi Park. Cameras welcome!

**Date:** Saturday, May 28

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Ages:** Recommended for school aged children and older

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History

**Pre-registration:** No

### Invasive Plants: Learn Them, Get Rid of Them

Homeowners, homeowner associations, landscapers, greenskeepers, and other property owners or managers interested in identifying, controlling, and replacing invasive plants should plan to attend this educational field day sponsored by the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Tour an old homestead and learn to identify several common invasive plants that are taking over our backyards, parks, and neighborhoods! After identification, participants will learn how to best control these plants and what beneficial, native species to replace them with.

**Date:** Saturday, May 21

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to Noon

**Ages:** Adults

**Cost:** \$20 - space is limited

**Location:** Bray Family Homestead Park

**Pre-registration:** Call Tina Moon 317-773-2181, [tina.moon@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:tina.moon@hamiltoncounty.in.gov), or visit [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org)



## Beginning Bird Hikes ★

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will all learn together. This is a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Don't forget your binoculars!

**Cool Creek Park:** These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the Nature Center.

**Dates:** March 6, 9, 16, 20, 23, 30; April 3, 13, 17, 20, 27; May 1, 11, 15, 18, 25, 29

**Days:** Wednesday and every other Sunday (with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month)

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Strawtown Koteewi Park:** These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

**Dates:** March 2; April 6; May 4

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

## Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Dust off your binoculars and catch a peek of some beautiful birds as they make their annual trip north this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long! After your hike, stop by the Nature Center's wildlife viewing room for coffee and doughnuts. Spring migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

**Dates:** April 30; May 7, 21, 28

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Cool Creek Park

## Audubon May Bird Count

Volunteer to help the HCP&R and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day and the results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

**Date:** Saturday, May 14

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Fee:** \$1.00/participant

**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center and County-wide

**Pre-registration:** Yes, by calling

Nature Center: 317-774-2500 or email:  
cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Art Jeffries: 317-844-1686

## American Woodcock Walk

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this bird for yourself at Strawtown Koteewi Park as male Woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! The Naturalist-led group will likely explore other twilight and nocturnal happenings in the park as well.

**Dates:** Saturday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 26 at 7:15 p.m.

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Taylor Center of Natural History

## Tike Hike-Bird Hike★

Join a Hamilton County Park Naturalist and members of the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society as we ignite children's interest in bird watching. A short, indoor program, outdoor bird hike, and craft will be included in this program.

**Date:** Thursday, April 8

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center

*Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will start to appear in April after having traveled over 1500 miles from Central America. Don't worry, plenty of flowers will be in full bloom, waiting for the little birds to return from the long winter.*



## Strawtown Enclosure-Native American Village Tours ★

Our interpretive staff will be conducting tours of the Strawtown Enclosure for interested guests. During these tours we will discuss the details known thus far regarding the Native Americans who built and used the "enclosure" and village over 700 years ago. The tours will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-984-5556.

**Dates:** Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Strawtown Koteewi Park

**Note:** A tour will not be offered when the Taylor Center is closed April 24.

# Camp Registration Day

Date: Saturday, March 19

Time: Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

The Cool Creek Nature Center is anticipating another great year of camp! We are very excited to now offer our families the option of registering online! Our intention is to provide a more convenient and efficient experience for parents and staff. We anticipate that this process will be as trouble-free as possible, but we ask that our camp families be understanding and patient as we transition into this process.

Parents can register either online or in-person. Our camp staff will be onsite the morning of registration and capable of registering campers or handling questions over the phone. Families without access to the Internet or more comfortable with our traditional in-person registration method can continue to do so; please contact the Cool Creek Nature Center.

## Cool Creek CAMPS

Looking for a fun and energetic camp for your children to attend this summer? The Cool Creek Nature Center is offering another summer camp series this year. Registration begins March 19, at 10:00 a.m. Children must be the appropriate age of the desired camp by August 1, 2011. Please refer to the Camp Registration details listed in this publication.



### Explorer Safari Session 1

Ages: 6-7

Dates: June 13-17

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$60

### Explorer Safari Session 2

Ages: 6-7

Dates: June 13-17

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$60

### Ranger Adventure Session 1

Ages: 8-10

Dates: June 20-24

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$70

### Ranger Adventure Session 2

Ages: 8-10

Dates: July 11-15

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$70

### Ranger Adventure Session 3

Ages: 8-10

Dates: July 25-29

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$70

### Junior Outdoor Skills Session 1\*

Ages: 11-13

Dates: June 27-July 1

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Mon - Wed)  
10 a.m. Thur to 10 a.m. Fri

Fee: \$80

### Junior Outdoor Skills Session 2\*

Ages: 11-13

Dates: July 18-22

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Mon - Wed)  
10 a.m. Thur to 10 a.m. Fri

Fee: \$80

### Junior Outdoor Skills Session 3\*

Ages: 11-13

Dates: August 1-5

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Mon - Wed)  
10 a.m. Thur to 10 a.m. Fri

Fee: \$80

\*Overnight camp sessions

For any questions,  
contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at  
317-774-2500.

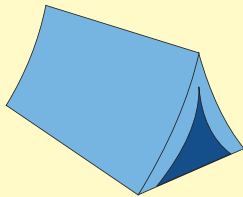
### Cancellations:

Unfortunately, NO REFUNDS will be made available after a child is registered. If a child is unable to attend camp for any reason, a credit may be made available towards the next year's camp in 2012. A cancellation form must be completed and approved by the Camp Coordinators in order to receive any credits. This credit may be applied to a child within the same family at the same address. If the credit is not applied to camp in 2012 then the credit is forfeited. Camp availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. A credit towards next year's camp is not a guarantee that a spot will be available for that child. Any available opening will be made to the next available person on the waiting list, as determined by the HCPR staff. Cancellation forms are available at Cool Creek Nature Center or online at [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com). Any concerns towards the cancellation policy may be addressed to the HCPR's Department Director, Al Patterson at the Hamilton County Administration Office by phone at 317-770-4400.

# Camp Information

## Rules for Registration (online and in-person)

- Parents can only sign their child up for **one** session of the age appropriate camp.
- Campers are only permitted to attend the camp for their designated age group.
- One Registration Packet or online Camper Profile is required for each camper.
- A limited number of spaces are available and registration for each camp is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- A Registration Packet or online Camper Profile must be completed by the day of registration.
- Registration can not take place until 10:00 a.m. on registration day.
- Registration forms must be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the child.
- Payment for the camp must be received at the time of registration (if in person) or by **5:00 p.m.** on the fourth day from the day the registration was submitted online.
- *If payment is not received within this timeframe, you forfeit your spot in camp and it will go to next available patron.*



### Online Registration Rules:

- Beginning on March 7th, parents can access our website and set up a Camper Profile for each camper. This Camper Profile will include setting up an account including creating a user name and password and filling out the registration packet information.
  - Web address: [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com)
  - From there, click on the "Forms" tab. Find the "2011 Camp Registration" tab. Click there to get to our secured, Camp Registration site.
- Camper Profiles can be created prior to registration day. This Camper Profile will contain the registration form, but users will be unable to select a camp until the actual registration time on March 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- Parents must log on at or any time after 10:00 a.m. on registration day in order to receive a spot in the desired camp.
- A camper will not be registered unless all required fields are completed on the Camper Profile.
- It is not necessary to have an account setup prior to registration day. Having an account setup should help expedite the registration process for our families.
- All information must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.



### In-Person Registration Rules (in addition to above):

- HCPR will allow relatives or family friends to register children as long as the parent/legal guardian of the child has completed the registration form.
- A strict limit of **four** additional children per registering family will be applied.
- Registration packets will be available to download from the website or pick up at the Nature Center on February 28.

## Camp Rules



### Payment

- Once Registration has begun on March 19 at 10:00 a.m., and after the online Camper Profile is completed, parents will have the option to click the "Registration" button for your desired camp.
- Camps that are full will not be seen online. Please call the Cool Creek Nature Center to be put on a waitlist or select another camp option to register.
- Your child now has a spot held in our camp. A confirmation email of your held spot will be emailed to you. However, your child's spot in camp is **NOT CONFIRMED** until payment is received.
- We currently are unable to process payments online.
- In order to complete the registration process, camp fees must be received to the Cool Creek Nature Center within **FOUR** days from the day you registered. Payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on that fourth day from the day registration was submitted online.
- If payment is not received within this time frame, you forfeit your spot in camp and it will go to next available patron.
- Camp fees can be paid in person to the Cool Creek Nature Center during hours of operation or sent through the mail.
  - **COOL CREEK NATURE CENTER**  
2000-1 E. 151<sup>st</sup> St.  
Carmel, IN 46033  
317-774-2500
- Forms of payment include cash or check.
  - Social Security Number or Drivers License Number must be included on all checks.
  - Checks can be made payable to HCPR.
- **HOURS OF OPERATION:**
  - Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Please bring the confirmation email you received to the Cool Creek Nature Center with your payment.
- Payment can be brought in by relatives or family friends, as long as the Registration Packet or online Camper Profile was completed by the parent/legal guardian.
- Once payment is received, the parents will get another confirmation email stating that the camper's spot is confirmed.

Please check our website for updates on the registration process.  
There is a chance that payment online will be an option.



**Operating Dates:**

April 15-October 31

**Location:**11299 East 234th Street  
Cicero, IN**Amenities:**

100 modern campsites  
7 primitive campsites  
water, electric & sewer hook-ups  
camp store, includes bait and tackle  
recreation room  
restrooms shower facility  
laundry facility  
playground  
picnic shelter  
White River access


 The logo for White River Campground features the words "white river" in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, stacked above the word "campground" in a larger, white, lowercase, serif font. The text is set against a solid purple rectangular background.

**Reservations are now being accepted  
for the 2011 and 2012 camping  
season. Please call 317-984-2705 for  
your reservation.**

CAMP SITE / FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$18	\$20	\$108	\$120
Electric and Water	\$17	\$19	\$102	\$114
Primitive Site	\$14	\$15	\$84	\$90
Day Visitor	\$1	\$2	N/A	N/A
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$70	N/A	N/A
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$70	N/A	N/A
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	N/A	N/A
Dump Station	\$5	\$6	N/A	N/A

**Family Fun Nights**

Join us at White River Campground for family fun nights! One night a month, we will entertain you and your family. Various entertainers will be there throughout the season to make your stay more enjoyable. For more information, please call the campground at 317-984-2705.

**Dates: April 30****Tree Giveaway**

Help the earth by planting a tree! All campers will receive a seedling upon arrival. You can also get a chance to meet the department's mascot, Chatterbox!

**May 28****Event TBA**

Please visit our website for more information.

**June 11****Kids Fest**

We'll keep the kids entertained! Send them over to the front lawn for fun times at the bounce house and craft making! Kids will also enjoy performances by Mark and Max!

**July 2****Event TBA**

Please visit our website for more information.

**July 16****Christmas in July**

Unpack your holiday decorations and deck out your campsite for this out of ordinary weekend! We'll offer "sleigh" rides, a Christmas movie, and a possible appearance from Santa!

**August 6****Kids Fest**

A magician will entertain the little ones for this fun night! A craft will also be available, as well as the bounce house.

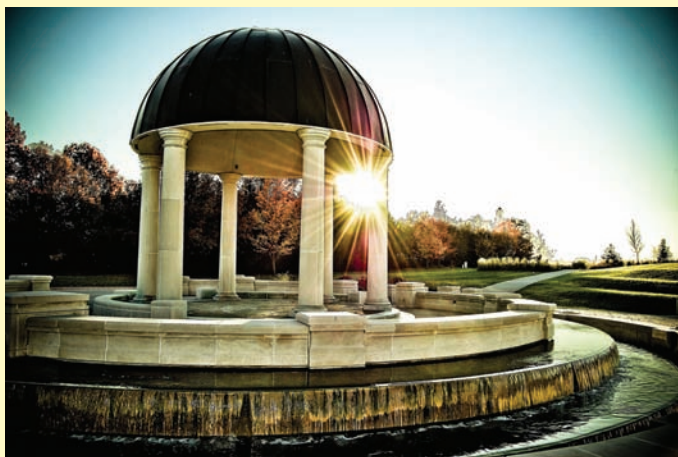
**September 3****Event TBA**

Please visit our website for more information.

**October 15****Halloween**

Trick or Treating, campsite decoration contest, and hayrides will be taking over the campground.

**October 22****Year End Pitch In**



## Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion is now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

For more information and to rent this facility, please call Ritz Charles at 317-846-9158.

## Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach is looking good and waiting for you to rent! Osprey Pointe is located on the bank of Morse Reservoir with a beautiful view of the water and sunset. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and has a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	\$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	\$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	\$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	\$100
Alcohol Deposit:	\$400

Rental Rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.



## park rentals

## Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy the warm weather? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect way to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1 until September 30

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds.
- We accept cash, check, money order, VISA or Mastercard.

**To rent a shelter, please call 317-770-4400**

Cool Creek Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 + tax	\$80 + tax

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Morse Park and Beach	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 + tax	\$80 + tax
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$100 + tax	\$140 + tax

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters A, C, and D hold approximately 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approximately 100 people.

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP	3	4 Pajama Rama	5 Maple Syrup Program Enclosure Tour Star/Satellite Tour
6 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	7	8	9 Beginning Bird Hike	10	11	12 Attracting Bluebird Woodcock Walk Enclosure Tour
13 Enclosure Tour	14	15	16 Beginning Bird Hike	17	18	19 Camp Registration Enclosure Tour
20 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	21 Spring Exhibit Begins	22	23 Beginning Bird Hike	24	25	26 Woodcock Walk Enclosure Tour
27 Enclosure Tour	28	29	30 Beginning Bird Hike	31		

# April

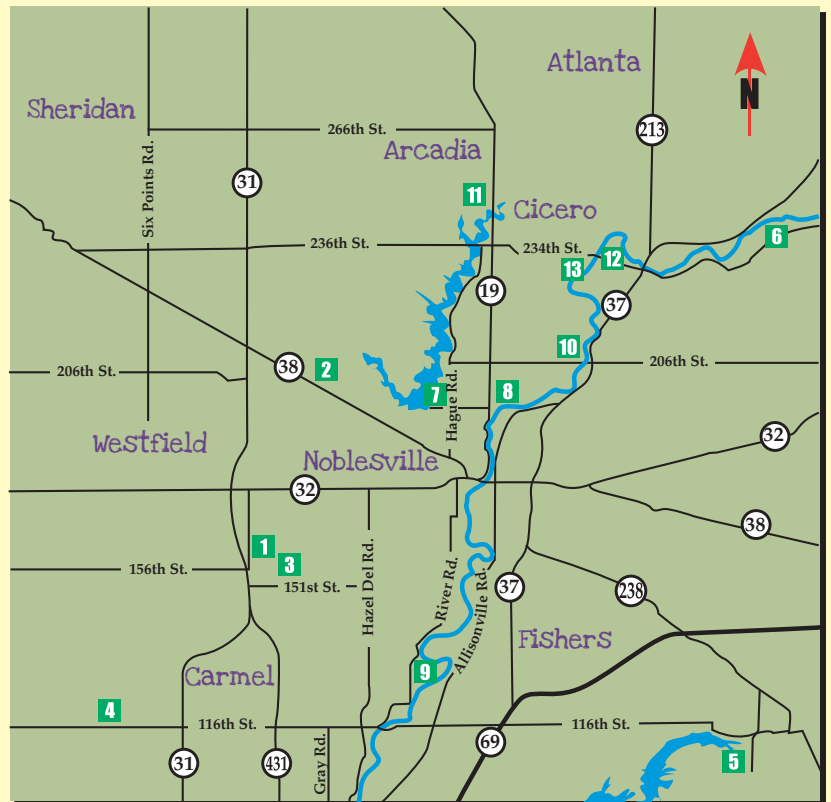
					1 Pajama Rama	2 Enclosure Tour Star/Satellite Tour
3 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	4 Animals of Spring	5 Animal Adaptations Bones Talk!	6 Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP History's Mysteries Creepy Critters	7 Alligator Aaron String Theory	8 Exotic Feline Program Tike Hike Bird Hike	9 Enclosure Tour Super Soils Cub Scouts
10 Enclosure Tour	11	12	13 Beginning Bird Hike	14	15 Campground Opens	16 Enclosure Tour Spring Tea Party
17 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	18	19	20 Beginning Bird Hike	21	22 Facilities Closed	23 Enclosure Tour Wildflower Tour
24 Facilities Closed	25	26	27 Beginning Bird Hike	28	29	30 Arbor Day Tree Hike Enclosure Tour Mig. Bird Hike

# May

1 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	2	3 Facilities Closed	4 Beginning Bird Hike @ SKP	5	6 Pajama Rama	7 Frog Chorus Hike Rookery Preserve Bird Banding Mig. Bird Hike Star/Satellite Tour
8 Enclosure Tour	9	10	11 Beginning Bird Hike	12	13	14 Enclosure Tour Audubon Bird Count Bandolier Bags
15 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	16	17 Child of Two Americas	18 Beginning Bird Hike	19	20	21 Enclosure Tour Collection ID Wildflower Hike Mig. Bird Hike
22 Enclosure Tour	23	24	25 Beginning Bird Hike	26	27	28 Enclosure Tour Flower Stroll Mig. Bird Hike
29 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	30 Facilities Closed	31				



	bathhouse	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	disc golf	soccer fields	baseball/softball	basketball court	volleyball court	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland/prairie	
1. <b>Administration Office</b> 15513 South Union Street, Carmel																							317-770-4400
2. <b>Bray Family Homestead Park</b> Coming Soon!																	●	●					317-770-4400
3. <b>Cool Creek Park</b> 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel						●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●				●	317-774-2500 Cool Creek Nature Center
4. <b>Coxhall Gardens</b> 116th and Towne Road, Carmel				●		●			●	●						●	●	●	●			●	317-770-4400
5. <b>Geist Park</b> 10979 Florida Road, Fortville				●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●				●	317-770-4400
6. <b>Lafayette Trace Park</b> Strawtown Avenue East, White River Twp.				●	●												●						317-770-4400
7. <b>Morse Park and Beach</b> 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●					317-770-4400
8. <b>Potter's Bridge Park</b> 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville				●	●		●	●	●	●						●	●	●					317-770-4400
9. <b>River Road Park</b> 12575 River Road, Carmel				●	●				●	●						●	●	●	●			●	317-770-4400
10. <b>Riverwood Canoe Launch</b> 20814 Riverwood Ave, Noblesville				●	●																		317-770-4400
11. <b>Rookery Preserve</b> Coming Soon!																	●						317-770-4400
12. <b>Strawtown Koteewi Park</b> 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville				●	●											●	●	●		●		●	317-984-5556 Taylor Center
13. <b>White River Campground</b> 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero	●			●	●		●	●	●	●					●	●	●				●		317-984-2705





Hamilton County Parks and Recreation  
15513 South Union Street  
Carmel, Indiana 46033

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Please recycle *The Chatterbox* when you are finished enjoying it.

## Help the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department reduce paper waste and save money in 2011!

Do you want to sign up for E-Chatter?

Do you want to update the mailing label with a new name?

Do you want to be removed from the Chatterbox mailing list?

*(E-Chatter is a bi-weekly email reminding you of upcoming programs and events. It also has direct links to our park website.)*

**If so, please do one of the following:**

**Call:** 317-770-4400

**Visit:** [www.enfront.com/HamiltonCountyParks](http://www.enfront.com/HamiltonCountyParks)

**Email:** [hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

